CLAIMS

1. A ventilation system for reducing the amount of anaesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the system comprising at least one inlet positioned adjacent to an area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station, and a conduit leading from the inlet to an exhaust.

2. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of areas of anaesthetic release, an inlet being provided adjacent to each area.

3. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said conduit comprises a main pipe connected at one end to the exhaust, and a plurality of branch pipes, each branch pipe connecting an inlet to said main pipe.

4. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 3, wherein each said branch pipe includes a valve for regulating flow in said branch pipe.

5. A ventilation system as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising means for entraining air in the form of a fan disposed in the region of said exhaust.

6. A ventilation system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station is an induction chamber, where animals are initially anaesthetized.

7. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the inlet is provided above the induction chamber.

8. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the inlet is in the form of an inverted funnel connected to the conduit.

9. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the induction chamber comprises a plurality of compartments, including a first compartment where animals are initially anaesthetized and having means for the supply and removal of anaesthetic, and a second compartment connected to said inlet, the compartments being arranged such that anaesthetic escaping from the first compartment passes into the second compartment and thence to the inlet.

10. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first and second compartments are joined by a selectively closeable passage.

11. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein said inlet is at the top of the second compartment, and a lower region of said second compartment is provided with at least one ventilation hole for the intake of air.

12. A ventilation system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station comprises at least one breathing station where surgery is carried out on the animal.

13. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the or each breathing station includes an orifice for insertion of an animal's nose, the inlet being provided next to the orifice.

14. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said inlet is defined at an end of a length of tubing.

15. A ventilation system as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13, wherein said inlet is formed as an annulus surrounding the orifice.

16. A method of installing a system for reducing the amount of anaesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the method comprising positioning at least one inlet adjacent to an area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station, and connecting the inlet to an exhaust by means of a conduit.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station is an induction chamber, where animals are initially anaesthetized.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17, wherein said surgery suite is a small animal surgery suite, and said anaesthetic administration station comprises at least one breathing station where surgery is carried out on an animal.

19. A ventilation system for reducing the amount of anaesthetic released from an anaesthetic administration station into a surgery suite, the system comprising at least one inlet for discharging gas to be exhausted, said inlet being positioned adjacent to an area of anaesthetic release from the anaesthetic administration station.

20. A ventilation system substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 2 to 6.

21. A method substantially as described herein with reference to Figure 2 to 6.